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LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

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1. (Original) A system comprising:
a computer bus;
a host processor connected to the computer bus, the host processor being programmed to perform error code correction;
a drive including means for providing a block of ECC-encoded data; means for providing an encryption mask; means for performing a bitwise XOR of the encryption mask and the block of ECC-encoded data, a product of the bitwise XOR being an encrypted block, an output of the bitwise XOR means being coupled to the computer bus, whereby the encrypted block can be sent to the host processor via the computer bus for error code correction.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the drive further includes means for performing error code correction, and wherein the host processor also performs error code correction on the encrypted data sent by the drive.

26. (Previously presented) A system comprising:
a computer bus;
a host processor programmed to perform error code correction; and
a drive for providing an encryption mask, the drive performing a bitwise XOR of an encryption mask and a block of ECC-encoded data, a product of the bitwise XOR being an encrypted block; the drive providing the encrypted block to the computer bus, whereby an encrypted block can be sent to the host processor via the computer bus for error code correction.

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27. (Previously presented) A drive comprising:
a reader; and

a controller programmed to perform a bitwise XOR of an encryption mask and a block of ECC-encoded data, a product of the bitwise XOR being an encrypted block, the controller further being programmed to output the encrypted block.

28. (New) A data controller comprising a processor for performing a bitwise XOR of an encryption mask and a block of ECC-encoded data, a product of the bitwise XOR being an encrypted block.
